

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 5 is canceled herein. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 6-16 are currently pending. Of these, claims 1-3, 6, 11, 13 and 15 are allowed.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 7-10, 12, 14 AND 16 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART IN VIEW OF USUDA (U.S. PATENT 5, 469,539)

Claim 7 is amended to recite that the editor automatically deletes the second object and connects the first and third objects, "when the second object is selected and dragged from the graphic to a predetermined area positioned away from the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic". Somewhat similar amendments are made to claims 12, 14 and 16. See, for example, discard area 31 in FIGS. 32 and 33, and the corresponding disclosure on page 43, line 9, through page 44, line 20, of the specification.

In the rejection of claim 7, the Examiner refers to the drawings in FIGS. 21-23 of MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART. The drawing in FIG. 21 of MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART describes objects 1, 2 and 3 being connected in a serial manner. FIG. 23 of MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART describes a situation in which object 2, that was originally located between objects 1 and 3 in FIG. 21, has been moved to some other position and the remaining objects, objects 1 and 3, are connected to each other.

However, the sequence in MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART includes the steps of, first, moving both objects 2 and 3 (for example, the situation in FIG. 21 being changed to the situation in FIG. 22) and, then, moving object 3 back to the position underneath object 1 (for example, the situation in FIG. 22 being changed to the situation in FIG. 23). Namely, this sequence comprises two manual steps of operation, and object 2 having been moved to a different position within the display remains undeleted.

Please note that claim 7 has been amended to clearly define over MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART. Somewhat similar amendments are made to claims 12, 14 and 16.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claim 7, and amended claims 12, 14 and 16 which recite similar features, clearly distinguish over MICROSOFT ORGANIZATION CHART in view of Usuda.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. IDS ISSUES

An IDS was filed on December 20, 2000. The Office Action mailed July 30, 2003, indicated that an acknowledged Form PTO-1449 of the IDS was attached. However, the copy of the Office Action as received by the Applicant's legal representative does not appear to include the acknowledged Form PTO-1449.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner forward with the next action a copy of the acknowledged Form PTO-1449 of the IDS filed December 20, 2000.

IV. CONCLUSION

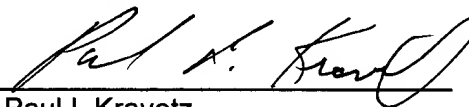
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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